

CLAIMS

The following listing of claims is a complete listing of the pending claims, and supersedes all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-2. Cancelled.

3. (Currently Amended) The electronic settlement apparatus according to claim [[1]] 22, wherein said memory stores user identification data that identifies the user to which said discount points are assigned to be associated with said discount points, and a password associated with the said user identification data; and said processor obtains information and password representing said user; determines whether or not said memory stores said user identification data that identifies the user represented by said obtained information and said obtained password to be associated with each other; and stops obtaining said [[goods]] commodity data or said user point data when determining that said memory stores neither user identification data nor said password to be associated with each other.

4. (Original) The electronic settlement apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said processor obtains information, which is supplied from an external section and which represents the user, in accordance with an instruction supplied from the external section, and generates said user identification data that identifies the user represented by obtained information and said password associated with the said user identification data, and store said user identification data and password in said memory.

5. (Original) The electronic settlement apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said memory stores user information unique to the user identified by said corresponding user identification data to be associated with said user identification data.

6. (Original) The electronic settlement apparatus according to claim 5, wherein when said processor determines that said user identification data that identifies the user represented by said information obtained by the processor and said password obtained by the processor are stored in said memory to be associated with each other, said processor updates said user information stored in said memory to be associated with the said user identification data to user information supplied from the external section.
7. (Presently Amended) The electronic settlement apparatus according to claim [[1]] 22, wherein when said processor determines whether or not said settlement data is supplied to the processor until a predetermined time has elapsed after obtaining [[goods]] commodity data, and when said processor determines that no settlement data is supplied thereto, said processor abandons the obtained corresponding [[goods]] commodity data.
8. (Presently Amended) The electronic settlement apparatus according to claim [[1]] 22, further comprising a settlement server, wherein said settlement server stores settlement points representing a property value to be associated with identification data unique to the said settlement points; determines whether or not said processor obtains said [[goods]] commodity data and [[said]] use point data that designates an amount to be appropriate for the price of said commodity; obtains said identification data from the external section when it is determined that said processor obtains said [[goods]] commodity data and said use point data; decides that a difference between an amount of settlement points corresponding to the price of said commodity [[goods]] represented by said [[goods]] commodity data and an amount of settlement points corresponding to the discount points represented by said use point data is appropriate[[d]] for the price of the said [[goods]] commodity; and supplies said settlement data to said processor when the settlement points associated with said obtained identification data are more than said difference.
9. (Presently Amended) The electronic settlement apparatus according to claim [[1]] 22, wherein said memory stores conversion rate data representing a conversion rate between said discount points and [[said]] settlement points, and said processor specifies the amount of said settlement points

corresponding to the discount points represented by [[said]] use point data that designates an amount to be appropriate for the price of said commodity according to the conversion rate represented by said conversion rate data.

10. (Presently Amended) The electronic settlement apparatus according to claim [[1]] 22, wherein said processor determines whether or not the price of said commodity [[goods]] represented by said [[goods]] commodity data reaches a predetermined minimum purchase amount, and decides that no discount point is assigned to said user when determining that the price of said commodity [[goods]] does not reach the predetermined minimum purchase amount.

11. (Presently Amended) The electronic settlement apparatus according to claim [[1]] 22, wherein said processor determines whether or not the discount points represented by [[the]] use point data that designates an amount to be appropriate for the price of said commodity obtained by the processor are more than predetermined available points, and handles [[the]] said available points as discount points.

12-14. Cancelled

15. (Presently Amended) The electronic settlement apparatus according to claim [[1]] 22, wherein said memory stores assignment rate data that designates discount points to be newly assigned to said user per unit quantity of the price of said [[goods]] commodity; and said processor decides a value obtained by multiplying the price of said [[goods]] commodity represented by [[goods]] said commodity data obtained by the processor by the discount points designated by said assignment rate data as discount points to be newly assigned to said user.

16. (Presently amended) The electronic settlement apparatus according to claim [[1]] 22, wherein said [[goods]] commodity data includes point designation information that designates discount points to be assigned to a person who purchases [[goods]] said commodity represented by [[the]] said [[goods]] commodity data; and said processor decides the discount points represented by

said point designation information included in said [[goods]] commodity data obtained by said processor as discount points to be newly assigned to said user.

17-21. Cancelled

22. (New) An electronic settlement apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing discount points representing a property value to be associated with a buyer to which said discount points are assigned;

a processor;

a network;

a remote terminal associated with the buyer;

a sending mechanism that generates a page into which commodity data designating a commodity that the buyer wants to buy and discount data designating discount points the buyer wants to use for buying the commodity are to be input, and sends a generated page to the remote terminal through the network;

a receiving mechanism that receives the commodity data and the discount data, which are sent by the sending mechanism;

a determining mechanism that determines whether a seller selling the commodity designated by the received commodity data designates an upper-limit of the discount points the buyer can use at once;

determine, as the discount points to be used for buying the commodity designated by the received commodity data, a smaller one of the discount points that is stored in the memory corresponding to the buyer and the discount points designated by the amount data received by the receiving mechanism when the determining mechanism determines that the seller does not designate the upper-limit, and thereby determine, as the discount points to be used for buying the commodity designated by the received commodity data, a smallest one of the discount points that is stored in the discount memory corresponding to the buyer, the discount points designated by the amount data received by the receiving mechanism and the upper-limit discount points designated by upper-limit designation data when determining that the seller designates the upper-limit;

an assignment mechanism that determines discount points to be newly assigned to the buyer based on the price of the commodity designated by the commodity data received by the receiving mechanism, and the discount points determined by the determination mechanism; and

an update mechanism that updates the discount points stored in the memory of the buyer to a level that is equal to an originally stored discount points plus any newly assigned discount points

and subtracting the discount points to be used as determined by the determining mechanism when receiving settlement data representing end of the settlement of the transaction of the commodity between the seller and the buyer.

23. (New) An electronic settlement apparatus comprising:

a memory which stores a discount points representing a property value for each buyer;

sending means which generates a page into which commodity data designating a commodity which a buyer wants to buy and discount data designating discount points the buyer wants to use for buying the commodity are to be input, and sends a generated page to a remote terminal which the buyer uses, through a network;

reception means which receives the commodity data and the discount data which are input into the page in the remote terminal and which are transmitted from the remote terminal through the network;

determining means which determines whether the seller selling the commodity designated by the received commodity data designates upper-limit of the discount points the buyers can use at once;

determine, as the discount points to be used for buying the commodity designated by the received commodity data, a smaller one of the discount points which is stored in the memory corresponding to the buyer and the discount points designated by the amount data received by the reception means when the determining means determines that the seller does not designates the upper-limit, determine, as the discount points to be used for buying the commodity designated by the received commodity data, a smallest one of the discount points which is stored in the discount memory corresponding to the buyer, the discount points designated by the amount data received by the reception means and the upper-limit discount points designated by upper-limit designation data when determining that the seller designates the upper-limit;

assigning means which determine discount points to be newly assigned to the buyer based on the price of the commodity designated by the commodity data received by the reception means, and the discount points determined by the determination means; and

update means which updates the discount points stored in the memory of the buyer to a discount points which is equal to (an originally stored discount points + newly assigned discount

points - the discount points to be used determined by the determining means) when receiving settlement data representing that end of the settlement of the transaction of the commodity between the seller and the buyer.